Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, JO, IS, PLO, EG, US

SUBJECT: SADAT ON UNITED ARAB KINGDOM IDEA

REF: CAIRO 11007

- 1. OBVIOUSLY HUSSEIN WILL HAVE TO MAKE HIS OWN RUNNING WITH SADAT ON IDEAS FOR FORMAL LINKAGE OF PLO AND GOJ.
- 2. HOWEVER, IT STRIKES US THAT THROUGH COMEDY OF ERRORS AND PERHAPS MISCHIEVIOUS MISINTERPRETATION, SADAT HAS PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH SIX.
- 3. CERTAINLY WE KNOW OF NO REASON WHY HUSSEIN SHOULD PUSH UAK PLAN ANYWHERE AT PRESENT TIME. WE ARE SURE, IN ANY EVENT, NO U.S. INDIVIDUAL, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITOR, HAS PUSHED THIS APPROACH WITH HUSSEIN. HUSSEIN HAS BEEN COOL, INDEED FRIGID, ABOUT GETTING OUT AHEAD OF ANYONE ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE WEST BANK. HIS REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN WAS CHARACTERISTIC—WHEN U.S. MAKES UP ITS MIND ABOUT WHAT IT WANTS TO DO ON WEST BANK, AND CAN CONVINCE OTHER ARABS TO SUPPORT IT, JORDAN IS PREPARED TO COME ALONG AND BE HELPFUL. AT SECRET

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SAME TIME HUSSEIN CONTINUES PUBLICLY TO TALK OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, EVEN FROM TIME TO TIME OF THE RABAT DECISION, BUT ALSO OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

4. THE ONE GAFF WAS COMMITTED BY HUSSEIN'S PRIME MINISTER--NO OLYMPIAN WHEN IT COMES TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PURSUITS. HE MADE CLASSIC MISTAKE OF DESCRIBING TO AN EGYPTIAN PRESS DELEGATION WHAT JORDAN HAD DONE WITH PLO IN FEBRUARY 1977 WHEN JORDANIANS SAID TO PLO "STUDY UAK PLAN IF YOU HAVE NO IDEAS OF YOUR OWN ON LINKS BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO AND LET US HAVE YOUR COMMENTS." EGYPTIAN PRESS DELEGATION, WITH THE NIMBLENESS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ARAB PRESS IN GENERAL, TOOK THIS TO BE A "NEW" PROPOSAL. THE PLO, WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN QUIET ABOUT THE MATTER, LED THE ATTACK AND SADAT OBVIOUSLY HAS CONCLUDED WE ARE BEHIND THE WHOLE "PLOT."

5. MY IMPRESSION IS HUSSEIN WILL SET RECORD STRAIGHT WITH SADAT. HE MORE THAN MOST APPRECIATES THE DANGERS OF MOVING PREMATURELY OR IN AN UNPRODUCTIVE DIRECTION. I DOUBT WHETHER ANY FURTHER U.S. EXPLANATION TO SADAT WOULD DO ANYTHING BUT MAKE US APPEAR TO BE PROTESTING TOO MUCH. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHAT SADAT HIMSELF HAS IN MIND REGARDING LINKS BETWEEN JORDAN AND THE PLO AND HOW SUCH DIFFERS GREATLY FROM THE AMORPHOUS, FLEXIBLE AND ILL-FORMED CONCEPT OF THE UAK, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE UAK, ON THE BASIS OF PAST HISTORY, HAS ALREADY BEEN PUBLICLY CONDEMNED, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF ITS NAME, TO THE ARAB GARBAGE HEAP.

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